



CALIFORNIA
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April 24, 2014

Honorable United States Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Representative John Garamendi
2438 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein and Representative Garamendi:

On behalf of the North Delta Conservancy (NDC), I am writing in support of pending federal legislation S.228 (Feinstein) and H.R. 1004 (Garamendi) – *The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Establishment Act*. This legislation would designate the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as the first National Heritage Area (NHA) in the State of California.

The California Historical Society (CHS) is a 143-year old, non-profit organization with a mission to inspire and empower people to make California's richly diverse past a meaningful part of their contemporary lives. CHS firmly believes that designating the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta a National Heritage Area would provide a valuable means to support public education and build awareness of the Delta's rich history. The Delta Protection Commission's *Feasibility Study for a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area* puts forward five themes for the Delta NHA, articulating the Delta's national significance and unique stories.

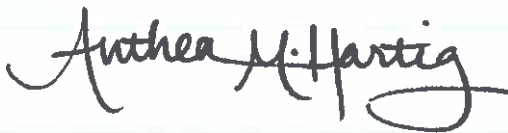
CHS recognizes the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as a place of great importance to the histories of our state and the nation. The region's story and distinct geography uniquely reflect the impacts of human labor and ingenuity in transforming a vast wetlands network into one of the most productive agricultural areas in the world, in turn influencing industries, technologies and infrastructures of local, statewide, national, and international significance. Innovative equipment such as the Sidedraft Clamshell Dredge and original Caterpillar Tractor were developed in the Delta. Unique communities such as Locke, the only town in the United States developed exclusively by and for Chinese immigrants, are found in the Delta. The Delta is rich with levees, bridges, ferries, and buildings, along with other historic resources and landscape

features, which retain historical integrity and provide valuable links to the layered past of this vibrant agricultural region and complex cultural landscape.

CHS recognizes the exciting potential for the Delta as the State of California's first NHA and expresses its full and enthusiastic support for designation. If NHA designation indeed goes forward, CHS looks forward to future opportunities for developing collaborative programming in partnership with Delta Protection Commission staff to promote the Delta's splendid and inspiring stories to new audiences.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthea M. Hartig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Anthea M. Hartig, Ph. D.
Executive Director and CEO

cc: Erik Vink, Delta Protection Commission